



COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

COUNCIL COURIER

January 2026

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2026 Council Area Events

WESTPEX

April 24-26, 2026

San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront
Burlingame, CA

SOPEX

June 5-6, 2026

1st Methodist Church, Medford, OR

Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show

July 11-12, 2026

Reno/Sparks Convention Center
Reno, NV

<https://www.renostamp.org/show.html>

East Bay Collectors Club Show

October 17-18, 2026

1375 Civic Center Drive, Walnut Creek, CA

<https://www.eastbaystampclub.com>

SACAPEX

November 7-8, 2026

Elks Club

Sacramento, CA

<http://sacramentostampclub.org/events/sacapex/>

Filatelic Fiesta

November 14-15, 2026

Napredak Hall

770 Montague Expressway, San Jose, CA 95131

<http://www.filatelicfiesta.org>

PENPEX

December 5-6, 2026

Community Activities Building

1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061

<http://penpex.org>

2026 Council Leadership

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The Council Courier is published four times a year by the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies (CNCPS). CNCPS currently has 24 member clubs in Northern California, Southern Oregon, and Nevada. The Council promotes local philately through support for clubs through the Speakers' Bureau for club programs, exchange of membership recruiting and retention ideas through the Council Courier, and support for stamp shows.

Next CNCPS meeting will be held at WESTPEX on Saturday, April 25 at 4 pm. We strongly encourage each member organization to send a representative to this meeting.

Around the Council

Each member club is encouraged to submit information they wish to share with the other clubs. Let us know what you are doing, challenges you face, and what is working well. Send information to Tom Hayes at fremontstampclub@gmail.com.



Nevada Stamp Study Society – Club members earn /auction Bucks for volunteering throughout the year. At the first meeting in November, these Auction Bucks are used to bid on donated items similar to those found at garage and yard sales. This year's auction saw 22 members spend a total of 97,610 Auction Bucks on 40 items.



Western Philatelic Library – The Western Philatelic Library is located at 3004 Spring Street, Redwood City, California. This library is run by a dedicated group of volunteers, the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library. Local stamp clubs are encouraged to schedule meetings at the WPL. Arrangements can be made to have a library volunteer available to open the facility. Contact the library by telephone (650) 306-9150 or email fwpl@fwpl.org Website: <https://www.fwpl.org/>



with ten prizes given, and a silent auction. The club also provided a cake.

SSC calendar: <https://www.penpex.org/calendar-2/>

East Bay Collectors Club – EBCC holds two monthly meetings, one virtually via Zoom, and one in person at the Alano Club of Contra Costa County. Contact Harry Henderson for information: harryhenderson51@gmail.com. The club's website is <https://www.eastbaystampclub.com/>



PENPEX – The 2025 PENPEX show was well attended, and visitors and dealers alike seemed to enjoy the show. See the show report on page 9.

Willits Stamp Club – The Willits Stamp Club meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial. For more information, contact Marv Talso: talsofam@pacific.net

Alameda Stamp Club – The club met on December 11 at Pier 29 Restaurant in Alameda for lunch and installation of new officers.

<https://www.alamedastampclub.com/>



Sacramento Philatelic Society – The Sacramento club held their annual show, SACAPEX on November 1-2 at the Elks Lodge in Sacramento. See a full report on the show starting on page 3.

Visit their website: sacramentostampclub.org/



San Jose Stamp Club – The San Jose Stamp Club meets once a month on the first Wednesday at the Pearl Avenue Library in San Jose. Visit their website at <https://sanjosesc.com/>

Contact Brian at: sanjosestampclub@gmail.com.

The club's annual show, Filatelic Fiesta was held on November 15-16 at Napredak Hall in San Jose.

<http://www.filatelicfiesta.com>

Redwood Empire Collectors Club – Dinner meetings are the order of the day for this active club. The meetings are held monthly at Café Bellini in Petaluma.

<https://www.redwoodempirecollectorsclub.org/about.html>

SACAPEX 2025

by Betsy Vallejo, SPS Vice President

The first weekend in November brings anticipation of one of Northern California's premier philatelic shows: SACAPEX. This year was no different as stamp enthusiasts gathered for two days at Elks Lodge #6 to shop with dealers offering a wide variety of collectibles, view stamp exhibits, buy stamp supplies and take time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

This is the second year Tom and Christi Kinberg (Stamp Art) organized the show along with the Sacramento Philatelic Society (SPS). The Kinberg's coordinated the dealer bourse, hall rental, caterer, advertising, and all that goes into managing a successful show. Our partnership with the Kinberg's has eased the club's challenges of running a large stamp show. We understand a lot of effort and coordination happens long before the show starts. They are professional at what they do and we look forward to working with them next year. Thank you, Tom and Christi!

Our club could not do the show without member participation. Our success is due to the volunteer assistance before, during, and after the show. Hours included transporting supplies to and from our storage unit, managing exhibits, setting up and running the bargain sales table, registration table, youth table, and our SPS Circuit Sales. I know it takes time away from your own "stamp shopping". I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you that stepped up to volunteer; in lieu of a physical handshake I've listed names below. If I missed anyone who worked but wasn't on my sign-up list, know that your time is appreciated.

John Vester, our SPS Circuit Manager, is a huge asset to our club. We have lost count of how many volunteer hours he has put into organizing the circuit. Not many people know that for the show, he transported the entire circuit from our weekly meeting hall to the Elks Lodge and back. He is organized, thoughtful, and has implemented positive changes. Volunteering at "the circuit" is always a popular job, and it's John's guidance to our club that makes it all work wonderfully.

Club members submitted a record number of exhibits. Members had fun socializing and learning about each other's collecting interests. The ribbons and awards gave us confirmation of our ability to exhibit, and the judge's comments gave us ideas for improvement. Kudos to Exhibit Coordinator Robert Pope for encouraging club members to participate in exhibiting. Robert also made the show program and Debbie Jean Hopkins typed up the Award Certificates.

We were delighted to have Colleen Mantzouranis and Yolanda O'Berry at the USPS booth. Colleen and Yolanda were friendly and helpful, fulfilling the public's request for stamps and products. Colleen shared with me that she learned a lot about stamp collecting. It opened her eyes to the popularity of philatelic interests and different ways people collect and use stamps. Thanks to USPS staff Gina Segura for helping coordinate and organize behind the scenes. ensuring the USPS booth continues the decades-old tradition of their presence at SACAPEX. We couldn't do all that we do without the Postal Service!

The Dealer Bourse was lively. Customers filled the tables shopping off their want list or looking for spontaneous purchases. It's always a pleasure to see what variety dealers have for sale. A special thank you to the dealers who always work hard to keep our hobby active!

New this year, Roseville Stamp Club had a table to educate people on their club activities. Chico Stamp and Coin Club members also visited and exchanged tubs of stamps from our circuit, to use at their meetings. It's important we support each other's local clubs and highlight their presence in the Sacramento area.

And now it's time to relax and work on all those new stamps you bought at SACAPEX.

See you at the next show!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SACAPEX!

SACAPEX Volunteer List

(Not in Alphabetical Order)

Ernie Teays	David Mardon	Roger Cartozian
Robert Pope	Lucas Vallejo	Ric Vallejo
Betsy Vallejo	John Vester	Joanne Murphy
Debbie Jean Hopkins	Rob Burness	Bob Kamuf
Andrew Silvester	Paula Mendell	Steve Banks
Arlene Cook	James Larot	Lance Larot
Kevin Daley	Tom Hayes	Susan Winsor
Edward Ly	Bob Metcalf	Larry Vivian
Norm Allen	Gary Moore	Brian Tatro
Mark Hale	Stephen Drew	

Another Great Show - SACAPEX 2025





And more great photos
from the show



2025 SACAPEX Palmares

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Grand Award

Greg Balagian - In the Name of the Lion

LeRoy D. Armstrong Memorial Award

Best Exhibit by a Member of the Sacramento Philatelic Society

Greg Balagian - In the Name of the Lion

John and Kathleen Pavalasky Award

Best Exhibit that Promotes and Encourages the Hobby of Stamp Collecting

Betsy Vallejo - The Natural Appeal of the Fox

Leonard Holmsten Award –Felicitations of the Jury

Dennis Solheim - Development and Innovation of Early US Stamped Envelopes

American Topical Association First Award

Arlene Cook - Lighthouses: Guardians of the Sea

American Topical Association One-Frame Award

Andrew Silvester - Stamps About Space

Best Single Frame Award

Peter Thy South African - Style Registration Envelopes of Botswana

Best Multi-Frame Award

John Kofranek All Together Now - The First Swiss Federal Issued Stamps

GOLD Award

Greg Balagian - In the Name of the Lion

John Kofranek All Together Now - The First Swiss Federal Issued Stamps

Joanne Murphy - Tobacco

Dennis Solheim - Development and Innovation of Early US Stamped Envelopes

Peter Thy - South African Style Registration Envelopes of Botswana

VERMEIL Award

Lee Coen - The King of Early Persia

Brian Freeman - An Overview of Cuba's 1904 Revalued Postal Card

Tom Hayes - Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition

Debbie Jean Hopkins - Philatelists' Use of Postage

Robert N. Pope - Exporta Issues of Mexico:1975 - 1993

Dennis Solheim - Machin Stamps in Booklets and Sheetlets

Betsy Vallejo - The Natural Appeal of the Fox

SILVER Award

Arlene Cook Lighthouses - Guardians of the Sea

Dave Mardon - The Art of the Nude

Paula Mendell - U.S. Joint Issues and Collaborating Countries

Andrew Silvester - Stamps About Space

BRONZE Award

Steve Banks - Beacon on the Rocky Mountains

Brian Tatro - Allies Commemorate World War II

Betsy Vallejo - Legendary Artists of American Music

Participation Certificate

Luke Skywalker - Star Wars

PENPEX 2025

By Tom Hayes, Exhibits Chairman

The annual show held each December in Redwood City was well received by collectors, exhibitors, and dealers. The exhibits were comprised of 34 frames with both multi-frame and single-frame entries. Fifteen competitive exhibits were displayed and a 7-frame court of honor: Hand-Painted, Hand Colored, and Hand-Drawn Covers with Animal Name Postmarks. The Sequoia Stamp Club also offered a frame of "My Favorite Things" from members of the club.

Twelve dealers attended the show, offering a diverse selection of philatelic materials. Sales were brisk, and the Sunday crowd was better than usual this year, with customers making purchases right up to closing time.

Other activities included a flea market that offered bargain prices on albums, collections, covers, and supplies, a silent auction that featured over 500 lots from single stamps to whole collections to catalogs and supplies.

Three box lots of donated items were offered in a raffle that saw 3 happy winners. Each lot included wine, stamps, covers and supplies. Show covers with cachets designed by Sequoia's resident artist Miriam Thurston were on sale throughout the show. Many activities were available to young guests at the youth table, run by Sequoia Stamp Club's youngest member Goyo.



PENPEX Exhibits Chairman Tom Hayes presents Peter Adams with an award for Most Popular exhibit for his "Organology in Philately" exhibit.



Cachet artist Miriam Thurston shows off her work. Miriam has been providing the artwork for show cachets and cancels for many years.



Youth member Goyo shows a young guest the wheel of fortune game, one of several activities offered at the PENPEX youth table.

PENPEX 2025 Palmares

PENPEX Grand Award

Greg Balagian History of Poodles

PENPEX Reserve Grand Award - Multi-Frame Exhibit

John Kofranek All Together Now, The First Swiss Federated Issued Stamps 1850-1854

PENPEX Reserve Grand Award - Single Frame Exhibit

Kristin Patterson Sin or Slight Transgression Tax

Multi FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Gold Award

Greg Balagian In the Name of the Lion

Greg Balagian History of Poodles

John Kofranek All Together Now, The First Swiss Federated Issued Stamps 1850-1854

Gold Award

Peter Adams Organology in Philately

Bobby Liao Hilton Hotel's International Development and Tourism on Stamps

Vermeil Award

Tom Hayes Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition

SINGLE FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Gold Award

Kristin Patterson Sin or Slight Transgression Tax

Gold Award

Stewart Chang Station Agent Postmarks of the Late 19th Century

Large Vermeil Award

Joanne Murphy Canadian Tobacco Tax Stamps

Dennis Solheim Machin Stamps in Booklets and Sheetlets

Vermeil Award

Peter Adams Philatelic Material Related to the Opening of the National Postal Museum, Washington, DC, July 1993

Large Silver Award

Robert Brilliant Pan American Airmail Speed Test of 1946

Betsy Vallejo The Natural Appeal of the Fox

Silver Award

Betsy Vallejo Legendary Artists of American Music

Bronze Award

Miriam Thurston History of Art on Postal Stamps

SPONSORED AWARDS

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) – Silver Award of Honor

Tom Hayes Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition

American Philatelic Society (APS) - Best Member Exhibit

Greg Balagian History of Poodles

American Topical Association (ATA) – First Award

Greg Balagian History of Poodles

American Topical Association (ATA) - Best Single-Frame Exhibit

Betsy Vallejo The Natural Appeal of the Fox

American Topical Association (ATA) - Best Youth Exhibit

None

Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award

Betsy Vallejo Legendary Artists of American Music

Ed Bierman Memorial Best Postcard Exhibit Award

None given

Sequoia Stamp Club Best Exhibit by an SSC Club Member

John Kofranek All Together Now, The First Swiss Federated Issued Stamps 1850-1854

PENPEX Jury Members:

Akthem Al-Manaseer, Jury Chairman

Khosrow Ghadiri , Apprentice

Auction at the Western Philatelic Library, 10/11/2025

The Sequoia Stamp Club held a silent auction at the WPL on October 11, 2025. The event was open to the public.



Eric McCrystal places a bid.



John Vogel and Preston Chiappa examine items.

Council Awards and their Criteria

The Chaloner Award

The Chaloner award is the highest honor that the Council bestows. It is given to individuals within the council who have provided significant service to philately over a sustained period. The award winner is chosen by a committee of three comprised of the most recent recipients of the Chaloner Award.

The Holmsten Award

The annual Holmsten award is given to a member of a CNCPS club who displays excellence in exhibiting in support of local stamp shows within the Council area. The Holmsten award is named for the late Leonard Holmsten, a once active exhibitor and tireless advocate for the Council. A local show within the CNCPS area is chosen each year to present the Holmsten award, and the winner's name is added to the perpetual trophy plaque.